

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 INT-05 GSA-01

AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 /115 W
----- 060575

R 111345Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2125

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LORENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ZA, EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA'S TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

REF: LUSAKA 1722 NOTAL

1. ZAMBIA BOUND CARGO CONTINUES PILE UP AT
NEIGHBORING PORTS, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION
RELEASED TO PRESS BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR
CONTINGENCY PLANNING, HASWELL MWALE, SEPTEMBER 11.
MOST RECENT FIGURES SHOW THAT 48,500 TONS OF IMPORTS
AND 15,500 OF EXPORTS ARE AWAITING SHIPMENT IN DAR;
43,300 TONS OF IMPORTS IN BEIRA, 64,000 TONS IN
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NKALA, AND 54,000 TONS IN LOBITO. IN ADDITION,

TOTAL OF NEARLY 8,000 TONS OF IMPORTS ARE AWAITING ONWARD MOVEMENT IN MALAWI AT TRANSIT POINTS OF BALAKA, SALIMA AND BLANTYRE. MWALE ALSO SAID THREE SHIPS CARRYING COKE (FOR MINING INDUSTRY) HAVE BEEN DIVERTED FROM LOBITO AND ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN UNLOADING IN DAR ES SALAAM IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. DISCHARGE OF SHIP-LOAD OF WHEAT WAS COMPLETED IN DAR ON SEPTEMBER 6 AND SECOND SHIP-CARRYING WHEAT JOW BEING UNLOADED. MWAL TOLD PRESS SEPTEMBER 7 THAT MORE THAN 35,000 TONS OF CARGO RED BEEN HAULED FROM DAR TO ZAMBIA VIA NOT YET INAUGURATED TAZARA RAILWAY AND THAT THREE CARGO TRAINS PER WEEK WERE SCHEDULED TO MAKE THIS RUN. UNABLE TO GIVE TONNAGE OF ZAMBIAN EXPORTS STILL REMAINING IN LOBITO.

2. GRZ DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, WINDSOR NKOWANI, TOLD PRESS SEPT. 10 THAT SOME PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION DURING SECOND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAY BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORT, LATE ARRIVAL OF MATERIALS, LACK OF QUALIFIED MANPOWER AND CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THIS YEAR WAS MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OVER LAST YEARS.

3. FINANCE MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY TOLD US SEPTEMBER 10 THAT CURRENT DIFFICULTIES BEING EXPERIENCED BY IMPORTERS IN OBTAINING FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO PAY FOR GENERAL CARGO IMPORTS IS DUE IN PART TO EXTREMELY HIGH VOLUME OF IMPORT LICENSES APPROVED LAST YEAR. HE SAID GRZ IS LIMITING FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONVERSIONS TO PAY FOR THESE IMPORTS TO APPROXIMATELY KWACHA 100 MILLION PER QUARTER AND THAT HE HOPES IMPORTS SITUATION SHOULD EASE THIS FALL.

4. COMMENT: CONGESTION IN PORTS OF GENERAL CARGO FOR ZAMBIA REFLECTS CONTINUING PRIORITY GRZ GIVING TO IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND COKE, AND INDICATES TRANSPORT BOTTLENECK WILL REMAIN SERIOUS CONSTRAINT ON ECONOMY HERE FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

WILKOWSKI

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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